### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Kansas City

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

⊱ For HCRS use	only	
received	•	
date entered		.1
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Type all entries—co	mplete applicable se	ections		
1. Name				
historic Newbe	rn Hotel			
and/or common	Newbern Apartı	ments		
2. Location	on			
street & number	525 East Armo	ur Boulevard		not for publication
city, town Kansa	s City	vicinity of	congressional district	#5
state Missouri	code	29 county	Jackson	code 095
3. Classif	ication			
district building(s) _X structure site	nership public private both lic Acquisition in process being considered	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner	of Proper	tv		
На	ppy, House & 6 00 Main, 2400	o J. Nelson Ha Cooling, P.C. City Center Sqvicinity of	uare	Missouri 64105
5. Locatio	on of Lega	l Description	on	
courthouse, registry of street & number	Jac	ice of Recorder kson County Cou East 12th Stre	rthouse	
city, town	Kan	sas City	state	Missouri 64106
6. Repres	entation i	n Existing		
. Landmarks	Commission of	Kansas		
title City, Miss	ouri Survey	has this pro	perty been determined e	legible? <u>X</u> yesn
date Ongoing		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	federalX sta	ite county loca
depository for survey r	ecords Landmark	s Commission of	Kansas City, M	issouri
city, town	City Hal 414 East	l, 26th Floor E 12th Street	ast state	Missouri 64106

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- 2. Kansas City a Place in Time, Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri, 1976.
  - 3. Kansas City, Kansas City Chapter/AIA, 1979.
- 4. Kansas City Register, Case #0005-D, designated as a local landmark by the Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri.
- 5. Historic Kansas City Foundation Survey, 20 West 9th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

### 7. Description

Condition  X excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered _X_ altered	Check one X_ original si	ite date	
good fair	unexposed	A ancieu	moved	uate	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Newbern Apartments, 525 East Armour Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri, consists of two nine-story towers constructed by reinforced concrete, brick and terra cotta designed in the Sullivanesque style. The primary facade faces north onto Armour Boulevard and a second decorated facade faces east onto Cherry. The south and west facades are undecorated.

### EXTERIOR

### Over-All Dimensions

The two structures are basically rectangular in plan, the east tower having a curved corner on the north east at the intersection of Armour Boulevard and Cherry. The two towers are connected by a one-story barrell vaulted hall forming a U-shaped over-all plan.

### Construction Materials and Colors

The buildings are constructed of reinforced concrete clad in common bond pressed red brick on stories two through nine. The first story is clad in smooth, dressed limestone. Buff-colored terra cotta is used on the cornice, ninth story, and above the first story as well as at the main entrance.

### Openings

Windows on stories two through nine are rectangular double-hung sash, eight-over-one, with decorative terra cotta sills. Windows on the first story are rectangular double-hung sash, one-over-one, with limestone lintels and sills.

The main entrance faces north onto Armour Boulevard. There is a new glass central double door flanked by two new glass doors. This entrance is articulated by a triumphal arch design in terra cotta, the most elaborate element of the building's design. There are two other entrance doors. One in the center of the west tower: a new double glass door with decorative terra cotta side molding and a limestone lintel above. Another new double glass door is located in the east tower on the northeast curved corner. It is also flanked by decorative terra cotta molding and surmounted by a limestone lintel.

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### Decorative Details

The Newbern Apartments were executed in the Sullivanesque style. Evidence of this style is found in the following:

- 1. The structure is articulated by three definite "zones": ground story, intermediate floors, and attic or roof level.
- 2. Intermediate floors are arranged in vertical strips by means of projecting brick pilasters running from stories two through eight.
- 3. Intricate wearing of linear and geometric forms with stylized foliage in a symmetrical pattern which is the most unique element of the Sullivanesque style.

Decorative surface ornamentation consists of the following:

- 1. Detailed terra cotta arch surrounding the door of the main entrance.
- 2. Eight-over-one sash windows with decorative terra cotta sills.
- 3. Cut and dressed limestone first story.
- 4. Terra cotta decoration along the parapet of roofline.
- 5. Terra cotta decoration along cornice.
- 6. Wrought iron and glass light fixtures on either side of the entrances.
- 7. Leaded art glass transom over main entrance.
- 8. Brick pilasters with terra cotta decoration at top (on ninth floor) and bottom (on second floor).
- 9. Curvilinear design of the northeast corner of the main facade.
- 10. Terra cotta decoration on either side of secondary entrances.

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#### INTERIOR

Access to the apartments was unobtainable. There are 132 three-and five-room units.

### Lobby

The lobby has been remodeled, but retains much of its original character. Dark stained wood is used in ceiling beams, at corners, and for trim. Wood pilasters are surmounted by geometric capitals in the Prairie School style. Light fixtures in the ceiling consisting of three hanging globes are also reminiscent of that style. Particularly interesting is the portion of the lobby that is curved on the northeast corner of the east tower.

The entrance hall is covered by a ribbed barrell vault which is richly decorated with plaster in the Sullivanesque style. There are leaded glass transoms at either end of the barrel vault.

There is low buff-colored marble wainscoating throughout the lobby. Floors are of terazzo.

#### ALTERATIONS

### Exterior

There were originally two separate towers with no connection at the lobby when the apartments were built in 1921. The entrances which are now side entrances were the main doors in each building. Above each door was a large multi-colored peacock measuring 6 feet in height. In 1925 the ground floor of the two structures was extended across the 36-foot interval which separated them by means of the barrel vaulted hall. The terra cotta arched main entrance was added at that time. The peacocks were removed and replaced with plain lintels. The original entrance doors (now auxiliary entrances) were of leaded glass. These have been replaced by modern plate glass doors.

### Interior

Access to the apartments was unobtainable. The lobby has had some remodeling, but most of the original appearance has been maintained.

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### CONDITION

The Newbern is in very good condition. It has remained in a good state of repair and has recently been rehabilitated.

#### SITE

The apartments occupy a prominent position at the corner of Armour Boulevard and Cherry. The building is set back approximately six feet from the sidewalk and is surrounded by a strip of grass and some small shrubs.

1. John J.-G. Blumenson, <u>Identifying American Architecture</u>, Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture — X architecture — art — commerce — communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1921-23, 1925	Builder/Architect Erne	st O. Brostrom	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Newbern Apartments are architectually significant as one of the few buildings constructed in Kansas City in the Sullivanesque style. The quality of its design and craftsmanship of ornamentation are exceptional.

In the 1920's Armour Boulevard was developed into a street lined with luxury high-rise apartments and hotels. The Newbern is an integral part of this streetscape and is representative of this phase of architectual development which commenced in Kansas City in the 1920's. It's unusual design with the curving facade and rich terra cotta ornament make it singularly significant as an architectual artefact embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Sullivanesque style.

The Newbern has been recognized as a fine example of a particular type and style of architecture in Kansas City by being cited as a local landmark by the Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri. It is significant singularly because of its design and skilled execution; It is significant as part of the streetscape of luxury high-rise apartments; And it is significant nationally as an exeptional example of the Sullivanesque style.

### HISTORICAL DATA

The apartment-hotel at 525 East Armour Boulevard was constructed in 1921-23 by the Armour Building Company, controlled by C.O. Jones. It was to be called "Le Pavonien" meaning "iridescent or resembling a peacock's train" after the two 6-foot terra cotta peacocks surmounting the two entrances, but was actually named the Peacock Hotel. It retained this name for only a short period, however. In 1925 Biene H. Hopkins, an Iowa landowner, bought the Peacock and renamed it the Newbern. The terra cotta peacocks, which were referred to as "unfortunate 6-foot birds" in a news article of 1925, were said to have offended some hotel guests to the point of turning them away.

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Ernest O. Brostrom of the firm of Brostrom and Drotts desinged the Peacock Hotel in 1921. He also designed the terra cotta ornamentation which was executed by the old Kansas City Terra Cotta Company in the Blue Valley district.

When the two buildings were joined in 1925, Brostrom was again the architect for the one-story barrell vaulted connecting hall and its terra cotta ornamentation. One of the peacocks which were removed from the building at that time was taken by Mr. Brostrom for his garden.<sup>3</sup>

Original plans and detailed drawings by Ernest Brostrom for the design of the Newbern are existing and are in the possession of the building's current owner.

#### ARCHITECT

Ernest Olaf Brostrom, a native of Sweden, came to Kansas City in 1907 from Sioux City, Iowa to manage a branch office of the Eisentraut-Colby-Pottenger Company, architects. 4 Although he had no formal training in architecture he developed into a talented and prolific architect designing numerous residences, commercial buildings, and churches. Two well recognized examples of his work are the Jensen-Salsbery Laboratories at 520 W. 21st Street built in 1918 and the Rushton Bakery at 814 Southwest Boulevard, Kansas City, Kansas completed in 1920. In 1920 he formed a partnership with Phillip T. Drotts called Brostrom & Drotts.5 In the 1920's this firm designed many apartment-hotels like the Newbern. Brostrom wrote an article on apartments which appeared in the Kansas City Star on July 20, 1930. He also wrote a book entitled Churches in which he published his thoughts on church design and used examples of the many churches he designed in the Kansas City area.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The Newbern apartment is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because of its particular architectural significance. The style, integrity of design, location, setting, materials and workmanship reflect an important development in Kansas City's architectual heritage. The Newbern embodies distinctive characteristics of a type; the luxury high-rise apartment hotel; a period: the 1920's when the high rise structure was being developed along side tree-lined boulevards such as Armour Boulevard; and a style: the Sullivanesque, which is important nationally and locally with only a few examples in Kansas City. And it was designed by a prominent and prolific Kansas City architect, Ernest O. Brostrom.

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### FOOTNOTES

- 1. Kansas City Star, April 16, 1922.
- 2. Kansas City Star, September 20, 1925.
- 3. Kansas City Times, November 7, 1925.
- 4. Kansas City Times, December 8, 1964.
- 5. Western Contractor, February 11, 1920, p. 14.

Kansas City	, Kansas City Char a Place in Time,			as City, Missou
p. 215 Kansas City	Journal, January	11, 1925.		
10. Geogra	aphical Data			
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List ail states and co	unties for properties overl	apping state or co	unty boundaries	
state	code	county	co	ode
state	code	county	co	ode
11. Form F	repared By			· ·
] name/title Joan L. N	Michalak, Architec	tual Historia	in	
organizationHistorio	c Kansas City Foun	dation da	te l April 1980	
street & number 20 We	est 9th Street	• na manasa maa tel	ephone (816) 471-3	391
city or town Kansas	City	sta	missouri	
12. State I	Historic Pres	ervation (	Officer Certif	ication
The evaluated significand	ce of this property within the s		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
665), I hereby nominate to according to the criteria	Historic Preservation Officer f his property for inclusion in the and procedures set forth by the	ne National Register a	and certify that it has been e	valuated
State Historic Preservation	rtment of Natural Reso	numoos and	(1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)	<del></del>
<sup>litle</sup> State Historic	Preservation Officer	ources and	date	in the second of the second
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that	t this property is included in t	he National Register	date	
Keeper of the National	Register			
Attest:			date	
Chief of Registration				

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Kansas City Star, October 23, 1921.

Kansas City Star, April 16, 1922, p. 150.

Kansas City Star, September 20, 1925.

Kansas City Times, November 7, 1925.

Kansas City Times, December 8, 1964.

Western Architect, February, 1924.

Western Contractor, May 17, 1922, p. 40.

Ehrlich, George, Kansas City, Missouri, An Architectural History, 1826-1976, Kansas City: Historic Kansas City Foundation, 1979, pp. 70, 89, 95, figs. 74, 75.

### ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE

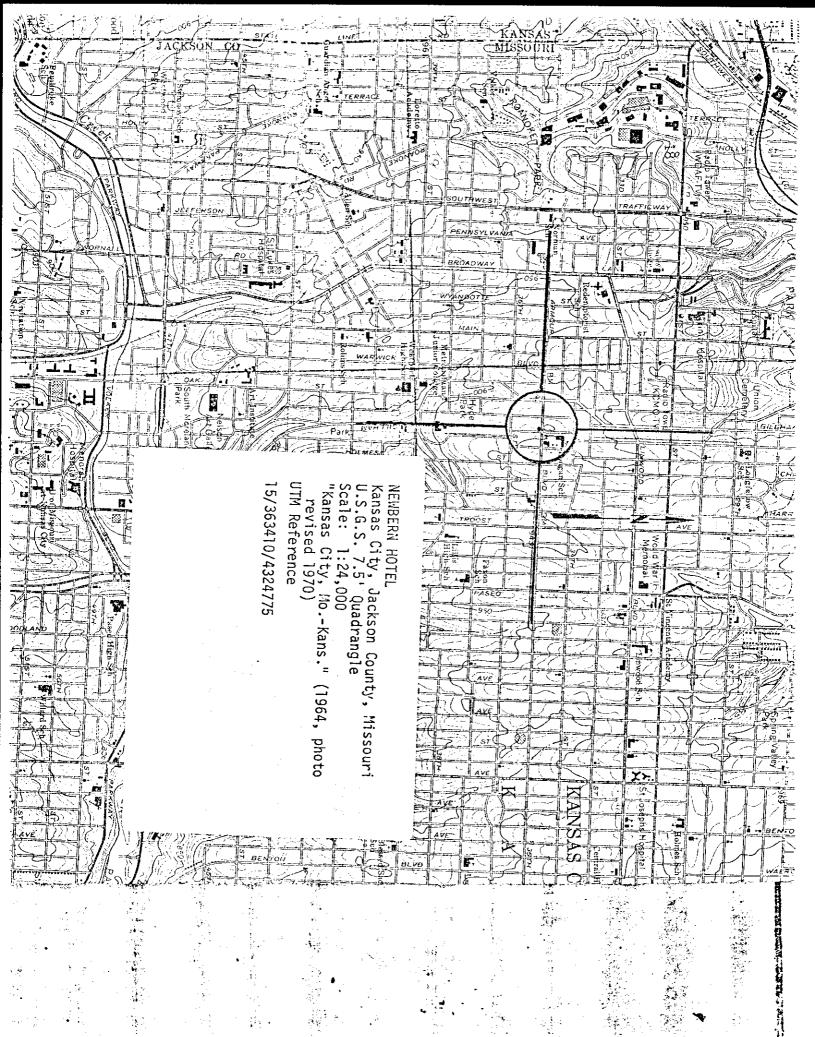
1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

April 10, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102



COUNTY:

Jackson

LOCATION:

525 E. Armour Blvd.; Kansas City, Mo.

OWNER: ADDRESS:

Newbern Corp., c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling, P.C. 1100 Main, 2400 City Center Square Kansas City, Mo. 64105

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

April 25, 1980

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

June 30, 1980

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

July 10, 1980

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

September 23, 1980

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED (AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Newbern Apartments are architecturally significant as one of the few buildings constructed in Kansas City in the Sullivanesque style. The quality of its design and craftsmanship of ornamentation are exceptional.

1xx: mo- 87-00049

Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980 Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from North General View Plate 1 of 23

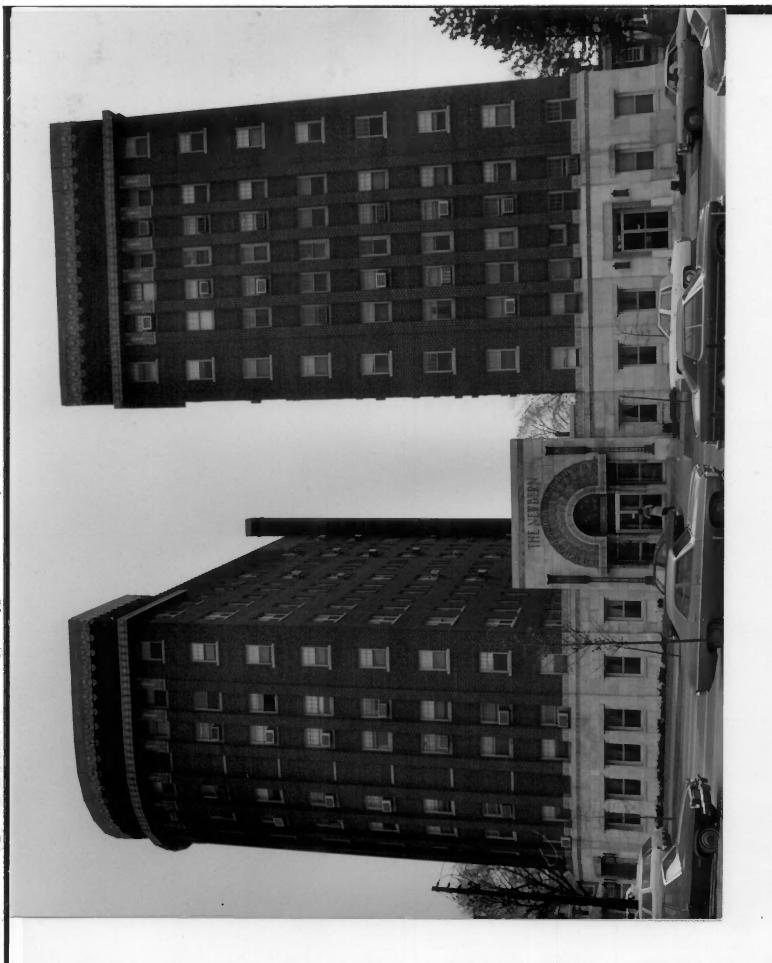


PHOTO UNAWAILABLE

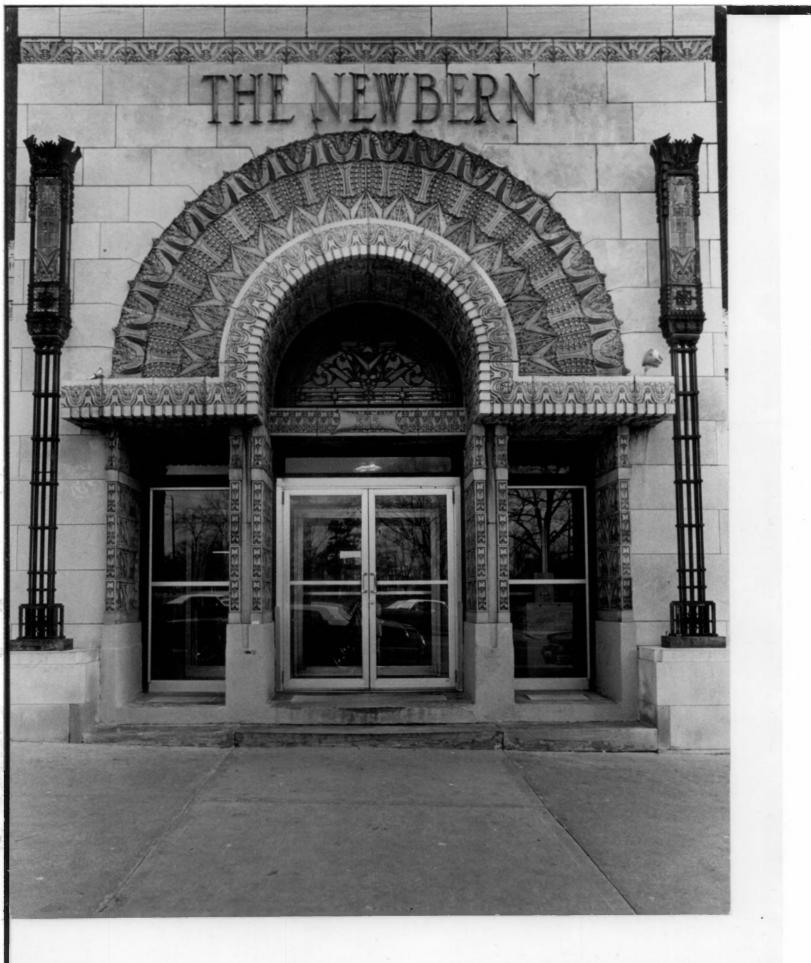
#2

Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy
Happy, House & Cooling
1100 Main St.

Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from North Main Entrance Plate 3 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980 Neg. Loc., c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from North Detail of Main Entrance Plate 4 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980 Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105 View from North Detail of transom window, Main Entrance Plate 5 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

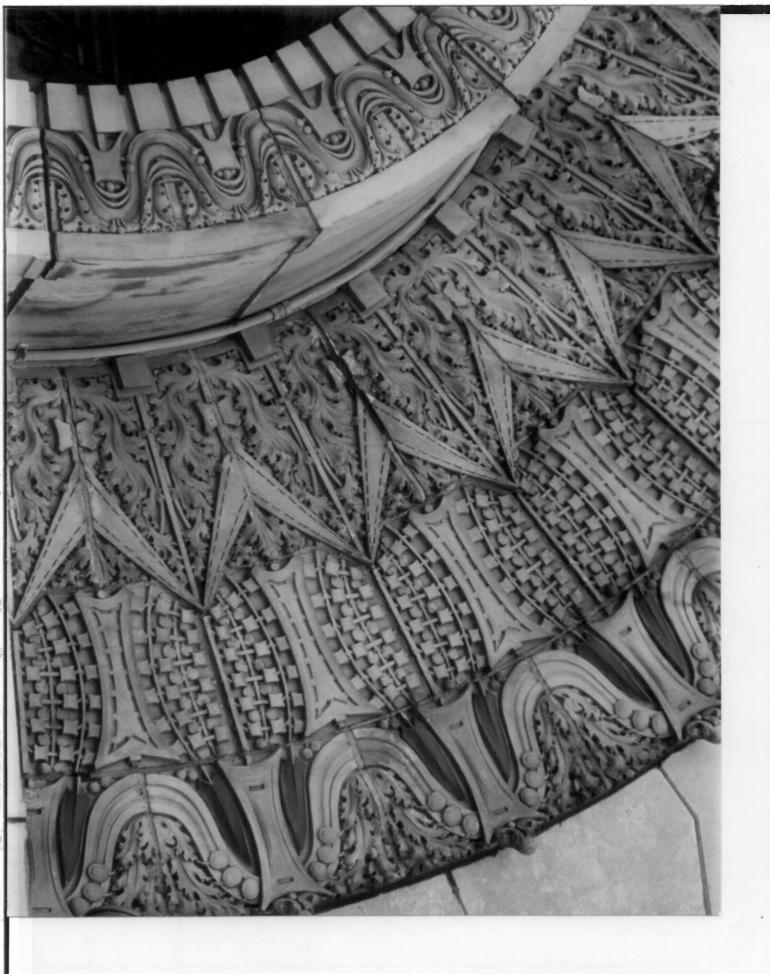
Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy
Happy, House & Cooling
1100 Main St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from North Detail of Lamp flanking Main Entrance Plate 6 of 23



Photographer; Joan Michalak March, 1980 Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy
Happy, House & Cooling
1100 Main St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from North Detail of terra cotta ornament, arch over Main Entrance Plate 7 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy
Happy, House & Cooling
1100 Main St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from East Auxiliary Entrance to West Tower Plate 8 of 23



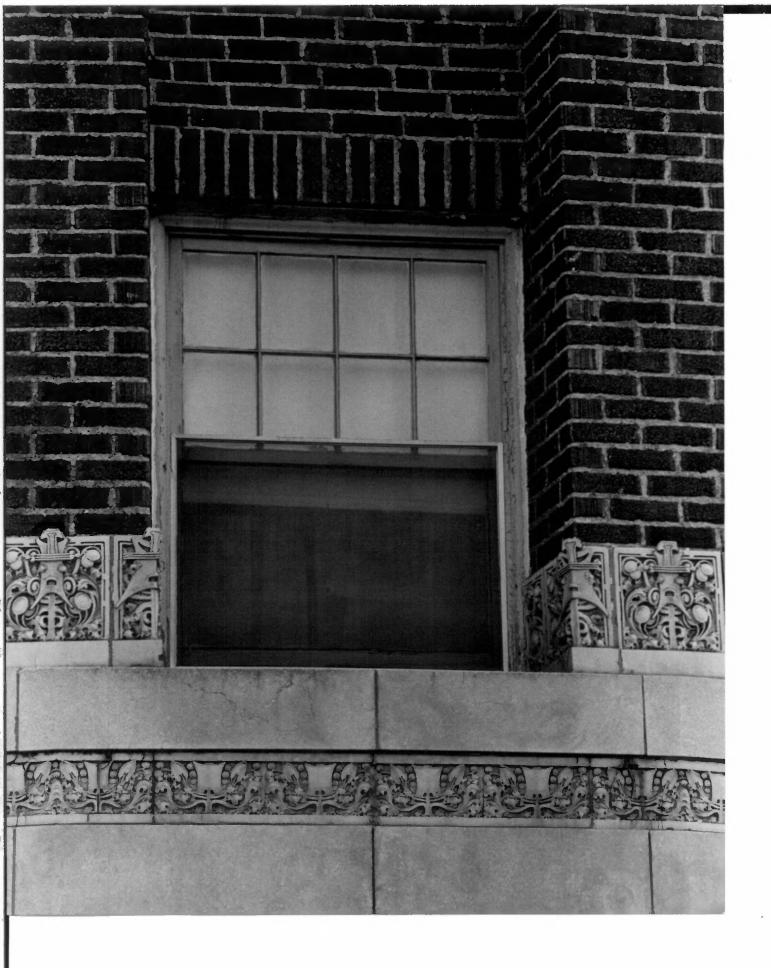
Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980 Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105 View from North Detail of terra cotta ornament on window jamb, First Story Plate 9 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy
Happy, House & Cooling
1100 Main St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from North
Detail of window, Second Story
Plate 10 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy
Happy, House & Cooling
1100 Main St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from North
Detail of terra cotta ornament between First
and Second Storks
Plate 11 of 23



Photographer, Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.

c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

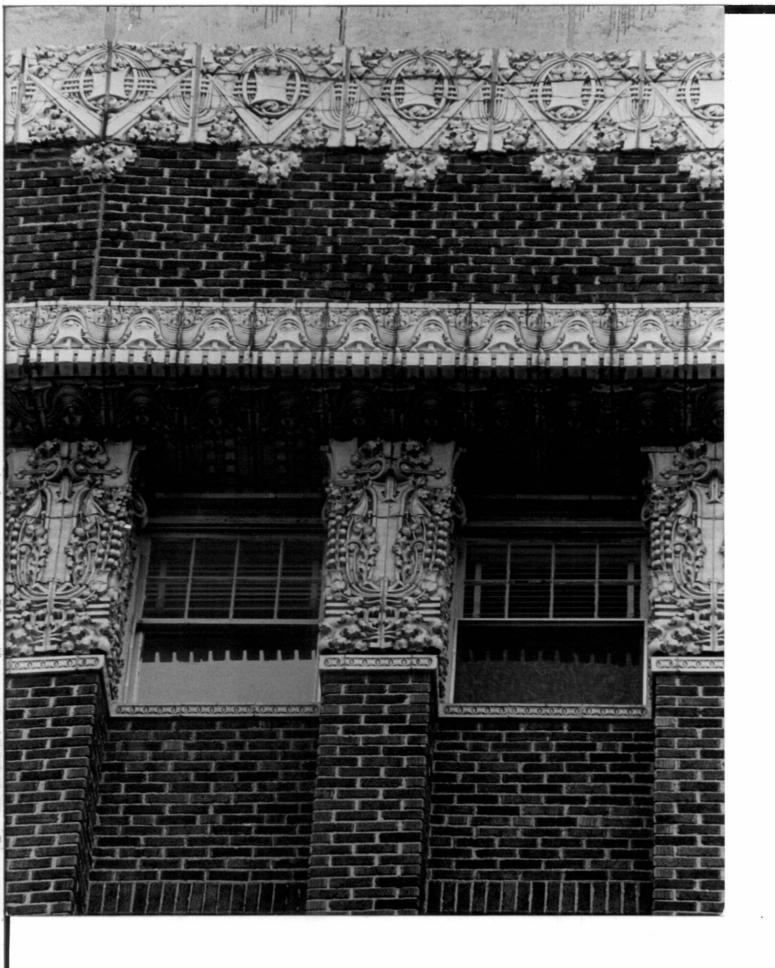
View from North Detail of cornice and Ninth Story, East Tower Plate 12 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy
Happy, House & Cooling
1100 Main St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from North Detail of cornice and Ninth Story, East Tower Plate 13 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalsk March, 1980

Neg. Loc.; c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View of Interior. Lobby of East Tower Plate 14 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak Narch, 1980

Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

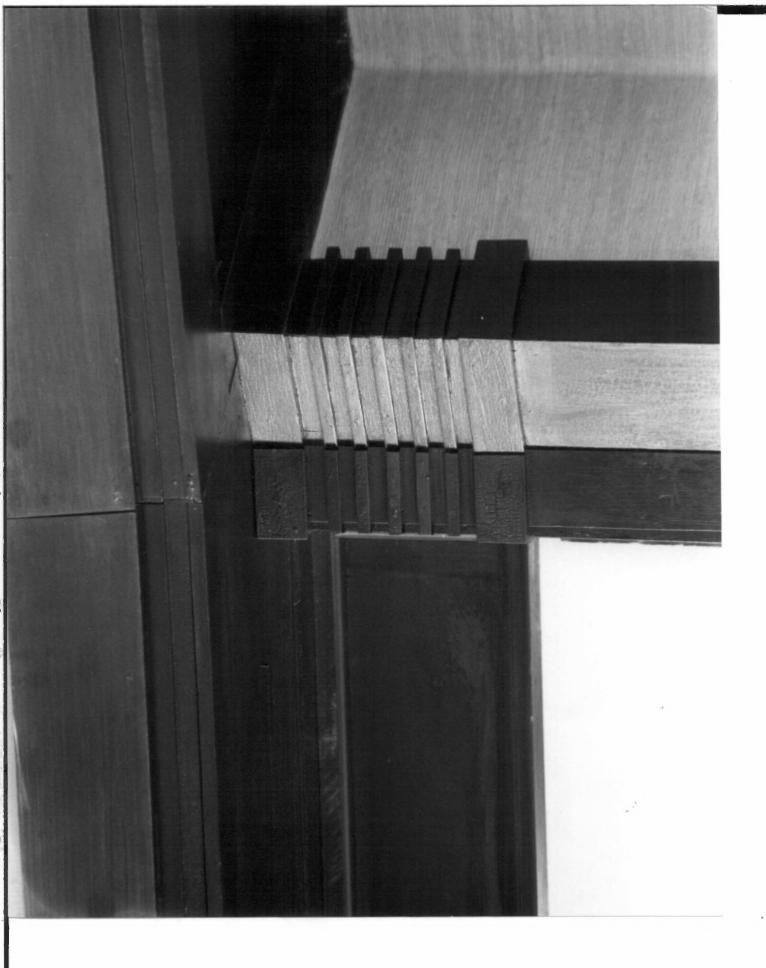
View of Interior Lobby of West Tower Plate 15 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View from Interior Detail of wooden capital Plate 16 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980 Neg. Loc., c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View of Interior. Barrel vaulted ceiling of Entrance Hall looking North Plate 17 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.;

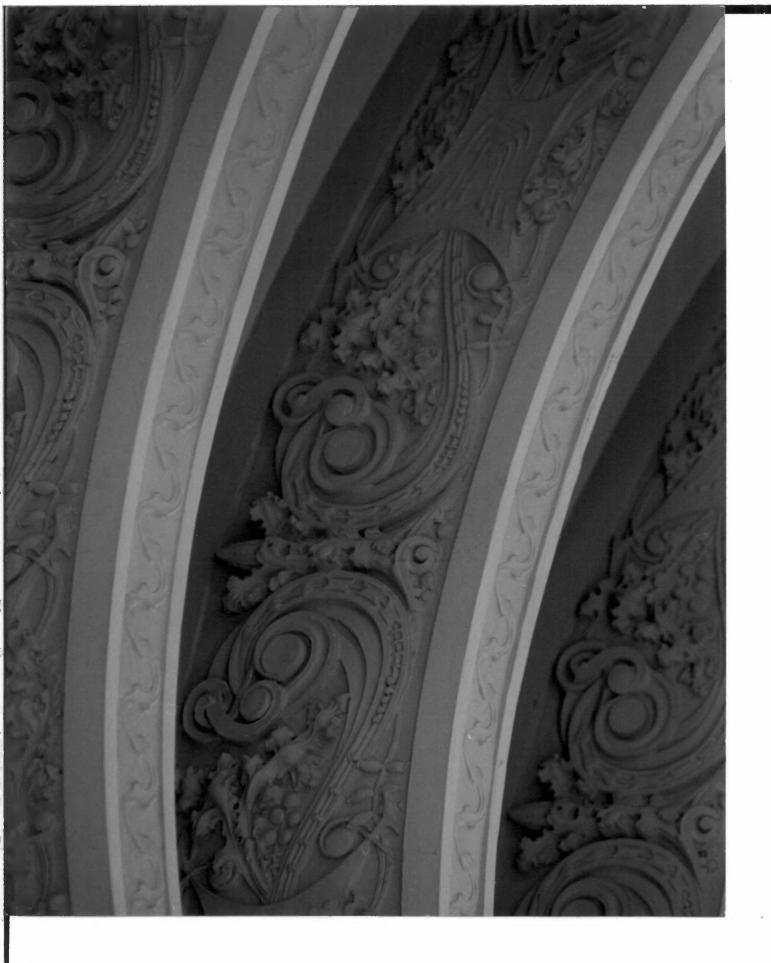
c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View of Interior Barrel vaulted ceiling of Entrance Hall looking South Plate 18 of 23



Photographer, Joan Michalak March, 1980 Neg. Loc.; c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

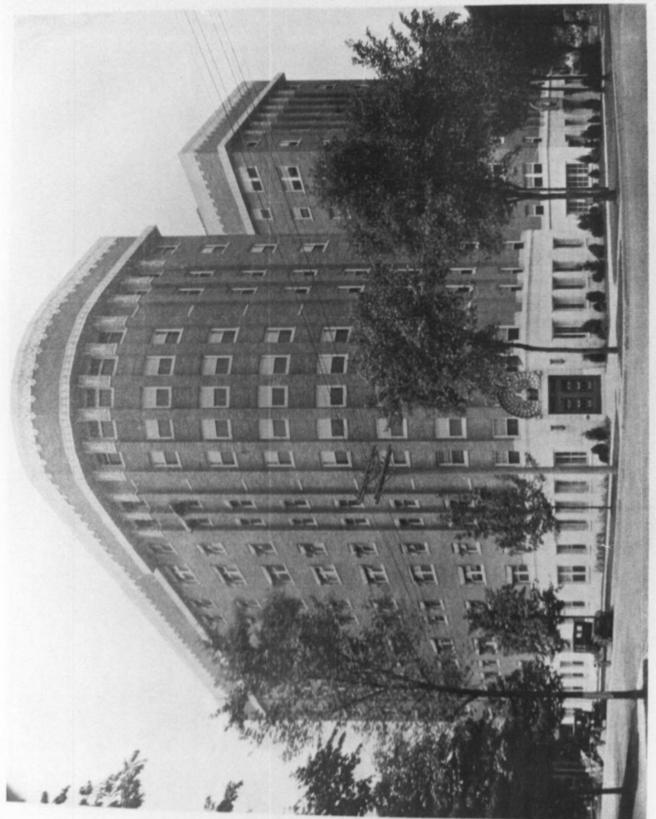
View of Interior Detail of barrel vaulted ceiling of Entrance Hall Plate 19 of 23



Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.: c/o J, Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

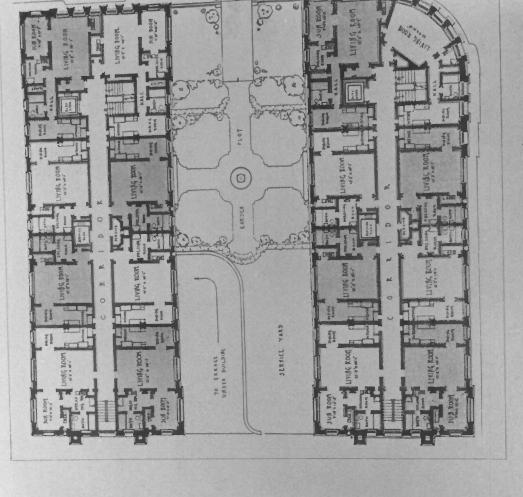
View of Original Exterior From Western Architect, Feb., 1924 Plate 20 of 23



THE PEACOCK APARTMENTS, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI BROSTROM AND DROTTS ARCHITECTS

Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980 Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View of Original Exterior and Floor Plan From Western Architect, Feb., 1924 Plate 21 of 23





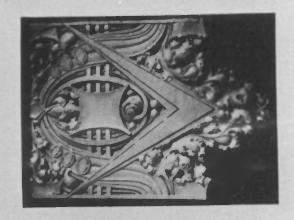
Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.; c/o J, Nelson Happy Happy, House & Cooling 1100 Main St. Kansas City, Mo. 64105

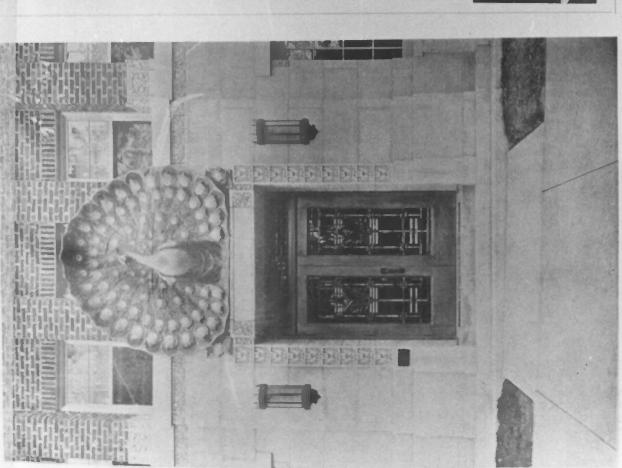
View of Original Entrance with terra cotta Peacock From Western Architect, Feb., 1924 Plate 22 of 23











## DETAIL OF TERRA COTTA ORNAMENT

Photographer: Joan Michalak March, 1980

Neg. Loc.: c/o J. Nelson Happy
Happy, House & Cooling
1100 Main St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64105

View of Original Interior
From Western Architect, Feb., 1924
Plate 23 of 23



LOBBY OF EAST BUILDING LOOKING TOWARD ENTRANCE



A LIVING ROOM INTERIOR